

Unmasking Domestic Violence

Curriculum: Domestic violence

Date/time: **Friday, March 14, 2025 • 9:00 AM – 12:15 PM (ET)**

Location: **Live synchronous training via Zoom**

Social Work CECHs: 3 hours • Approval pending

Cost: Free to all MDHHS and private agency child welfare workers;
\$15 for students; \$45 all others

Presenters: **Deborah Hackworth**
Elizabeth Alderson, LMSW



Intermediate skill level

Target audience:

- ✓ Family Preservation Workers
- ✓ Children's Protective Services Workers
- ✓ Foster Care Workers
- ✓ Adoption Workers

Training objectives: As a result of this training, participants will be prepared to:

- Increase understanding about domestic violence among our community pillars and provide reliable, up-to-date information and resources on domestic violence in our region.
- Define appropriate responses and ways to support the survivors of abuse in our lives and shed light on the complex effects of domestic violence on individuals, children, and communities.
- Emphasize the need to hold batterers accountable in order to end their abusive behaviors, educate for signs of abuse in a relationship, bring awareness around cultural influences that perpetuate domestic violence, and increase understanding of the challenges a victim might face in reaching out for help.

Description: Knowledge is power. The more our neighbors understand domestic violence, the closer we will get to eliminating it in our communities. In the past, domestic violence was invisible, and governments did little to recognize abuse in our homes. An important part of our mission since 1984 is to raise community awareness about domestic violence in Southwest Michigan. Survivors, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and family members, often feel powerless because they do not know where to turn for help, especially if they are fearful of involving police. We seek to change that through our free education programs. Our trained staff often work with local businesses and nonprofit organizations to create and implement comprehensive awareness programs designed to address the ways in which domestic violence impacts the workplace, including the impact on employee's productivity and the safety risk to onsite persons and visitors. By having a dynamic domestic violence workplace policy in place, employers promote healthy relationships for employees and their families, and demonstrate both their commitment to supporting colleagues who are survivors of domestic violence and to disciplining batterers. This training will utilize small and large group discussion and visual displays.

Educational Opportunities

Curriculum: Educational opportunities: Understanding a foster child's rights in education/special education; understanding a child's rights through the *McKinney-Vento Act*; navigating higher education with youth; preschool/early education and child welfare services; navigating the special education system for children with disabilities; navigating the education system with children who have experienced trauma; understanding the autism spectrum and neurodiversity.

Date/time: **Friday, August 22, 2025 • 9:00 AM – 12:15 PM (ET)**

Location: **Live synchronous training via Zoom**

Social Work CECHs: 3 hours • Approval pending

Cost: Free to all MDHHS and private agency child welfare workers:
\$15 for students; \$45 all others

Presenter: **Beth Fairchild, LMSW**



Beginning skill level

Target audience:

- ✓ **Family Preservation Workers**
- ✓ **Children's Protective Services Workers**
- ✓ **Foster Care Workers**
- ✓ **Adoption Workers**

Training objectives: As a result of this training, participants will be prepared to:

- Understand the difference between a medical diagnosis and an educational label, including autism spectrum, ADHD, and mood disorders.
- Understand how a student becomes eligible for special education services and what types of services are available.
- Understand what services look like in action, beginning with Early-on/preschool up through college.

Description: This comprehensive training provides participants with a foundational understanding of the special education process within the educational system. Designed for educators, support staff, and family advocates, the training distinguishes between educational labels and medical diagnoses, clarifying their implications for student support. Participants will explore the eligibility process for special education services, gaining insight into the steps required for a student to qualify. The training will also cover the range of services available across different age groups, emphasizing practical applications in various educational settings. By the end of the training, participants will be equipped with the knowledge and tools to effectively support parents and families navigating the complexities of special education, fostering a more inclusive environment for all students. This training will utilize small and large group discussion and visual displays.

How to register: Go to www.andrews.edu/cas/socialwork/continuing and click on the link provided.

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